

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

Vol. I.

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No. 25.

It Had A Good Effect.

The Agitation for Equal Taxation Beneficial to Scott County Taxpayers.—Missouri's "Low Tax Rate" and How it Works.

The taxpayers of Scott county have reason to congratulate themselves on the evident effect their agitation for equal taxation had on the Board of Equalization. In only a very few instances were assessments increased, and this increase was on improvements in the towns—chiefly in Blodgett. Jno. E. Marshall's new brick store was put in at \$1,700 and Ben Marshall's row of cottages at \$800. And while there were few increases, there were quite a number of reductions on property in the several towns. On the whole, Scott county has probably a slightly decreased assessment as compared with last year—thanks to the agitation for equal taxation.

So far as we are able to learn, there was no increase on any farm property. In fact, the Board didn't do much—and it is probably well that it didn't. Scott county fared reasonably well this year, as compared with other counties. While many small land-holders may be taxed out of proportion to the large land-holders, yet this is the case wherever you go, and Scott county is no exception. And we ought to be thankful that we escaped any serious increase in assessments.

No doubt you have all heard about Missouri having the "lowest tax rate of any state in the union." Well, it has. The framers of the state constitution are responsible for this, yet the state administration at Jefferson City tries to claim credit for it. The men who framed the present constitution of this great state were patriots of the old school and their actions were not governed by the "attorneys" of trust companies and corporations. They seemed to foresee the possibility of professional office-holders making room for all their relatives and friends at the public crib and limited the amount of tax that could be levied against the people. And today the political free-bouters who have managed to get themselves at the head of the Democratic party in this state tout their horns long and loud about Missouri having the "lowest tax rate."

If the Republicans were in control in Missouri they could make exactly the same claim. The tax rate is just as high as it is possible to make it, and the gentlemen at Jefferson City, who had no voice in the framing or adoption of the constitution, are entitled to no credit. And when they try to gain public confidence by laying claim to something for which they are in no way responsible, it only proves the weakness of their contention that they have given Missouri a "wise, economic and business-like administration."

During circuit court, last week, the editor met Uncle Wm. Daugherty, of Commerce township, seated on the front steps of the court house. Mr. Daugherty is one of those rock-ribbed Democrats who never takes time to look at anything but the label of a ticket, and if he finds the word "Democratic" at the head, that is enough for him to know and the ticket goes in "straight." He is sincere about it, and if you want to borrow his pipe and tobacco, all you have to do is to begin to talk Democracy.

Mr. Daugherty began to criticize the editor about his attacks on the state administration and mentioned the excellent condition of Missouri affairs and the "low tax rate." Court Stenographer Mardick, of Charleston, County Clerk McPheeters, Representative Williams and several others were present.

"Now, I want to tell you about this low tax rate humbug," the editor started off. "The state officials seem to think they deserve great credit because they do not violate the state constitution. They are taxing us every cent they are permitted to tax under the constitution."

"A Democratic constitution," interrupted Representative Williams. "Democratic, thunder!" retorted the editor. "It is the STATE constitution."

Everybody subsided for the moment, except to mutter that it was right to stick to the party, and the editor continued: "They tell you of this low tax rate, but they say nothing of the perpetual increase in assessments. Down in Mississippi county—and I ask my friend Mardick to bear me witness—the Board of Equalization increased values in that county \$150,000 only last week."

All eyes turned on Mr. Mardick, who said nothing, but appeared to be

thinking a great deal. A happy thought seemed to strike County Clerk McPheeters and a somewhat contented smile illuminated his countenance as he tapped Mr. Mardick on the shoulder and said:

"Levee tax?"

No answer.

"Ditch tax?" interrupted another.

No answer.

"Levee and ditch assessments are entirely separate from the general assessment and cannot apply," said the editor as he awaited a reply from Mr. Mardick.

Presently Mr. Mardick ventured an explanation by saying that unusual conditions existed in Mississippi county owing to the large number of unpaid county warrants.

"Newspaper reports show a general increase in all the surrounding counties," continued the editor, "and while Scott county escaped this year, it had its share of increase last year quite equal to that of Mississippi county this year."

"If you say that you misrepresent the facts," retorted County Clerk McPheeters.

The editor admitted that he had no way of proving his assertion except by the clerk's own books, and if Mr. McPheeters will look up his own record he will find that the increased assessment in Scott county last year was quite equal to—if it does not exceed—the increase in Mississippi county this year. He has the record and if he will furnish it the Kicker will print it free of charge and allow the taxpayers to judge for themselves whether or not the editor "misrepresented the facts." We distinctly remember that the personal assessment of one man was increased \$125,000.

Now, what are the facts? While the tax rate cannot increase without violating the state constitution, yet the assessed valuation can! And while Scott county escaped an increase this year, yet the other counties of the state were not so fortunate. And while it may be your neighbor that is caught in the drag-net this year, it may catch you next year, and in time it catches us all.

That the increase all over the state was in the same proportion as in Mississippi county the Kicker is prepared to prove. The population of the state is 3,106,665. The population of Mississippi county is 11,887, or 3 1/2 per cent of the whole. The increase in values in Mississippi county was \$142,975. Taking population as a basis, the state could be divided into 262 additional counties, each having a population the same as Mississippi county. Now multiply the increase (\$142,975) in Mississippi county by 262 and you have the total increase of the state—\$37,459,450.

In order that our readers may see how near this calculation comes to the exact figures we reproduce an editorial from the Farmington Times—an administration organ that seems to be thanking the Lord that it is no worse. The Times says:

"The valuation of real and personal property returned by the assessors of this state for the taxes of 1902 amounted to \$1,047,157,937. The State Board of Equalization last week completed its labors for the equalization of real and personal property, and decreased the valuation \$688,798, leaving the net total valuation \$1,046,469,144. The valuation fixed by the board in 1901 was \$1,008,948,758. THIS SHOWS AN INCREASED VALUATION in real and personal property of \$37,520,391, after the deduction of \$688,798 made by the Board."

So there, now! The calculation of the Kicker is \$60,941 less than the actual figures, and proves that what happened in Mississippi county was general all over the state, and knocks a hole in Mr. Mardick's contention that "unusual conditions exist in Mississippi county."

So you see, Mr. Taxpayer, the "low tax rate" does not help us out any so long as the authorities have the power to increase our assessed valuation. At the ordinary rate of 1 1/2 per cent of the 1901 valuation for state, county, road and school purposes, we find the burden of taxation in Missouri increased \$469,000.00 in one year! And all we get in return is a lot of useless "commissioners," "inspectors" and "directors" whose chief occupation is to draw big salaries and expenses and get out during the campaign and tell you to "stick to the party" and "vote straight."

Under just, honest and economic management the rate of taxation

The Store You Hear So Much About

We are prepared to offer you surpassing goods at as low prices as the common, every-day stuff so freely advertised. Good Quality at Low Prices is the magnet which draws all the intelligent people to the Scott County Bargain Store. A word to the wise is sufficient. That word is: The place to buy is where the selection is the most comprehensive and choicest, and prices are the lowest. If you have been looking around you will need no telling to be convinced that the Scott County Bargain Store is the place to patronize. It is well to arrange now for Farming Implements, Binder Twine, etc. We are Agents for the best and well known brands and makes of all kinds of Farm Machinery, Carriages, Buggies, Wagons, also Champion Binders and Mowers, in fact, you can buy anything in the machinery line from a grub hoe to a saw mill—the best made, at the lowest prices. We handle everything from a Needle to a Threshing Machine—the Best Goods that money can buy. Come in!

IN DRY GOODS

We can show you an extraordinary and most beautiful array of handsome wash dress goods. Fabrics from foreign shores and native land—the most popular weaves possible to sell are here.

In Shoes

Our great leaders are the Friseman Bros. brands. None more solid, durable or better looking than these shoes. We have them in all sizes and grades. Satisfaction or money refunded.

In Clothing

We carry a full line of Custom-Made Clothing for Men, Boys and Youths. We are agents for the best tailoring house in the U. S. Don't dress to kill, but dress to wear. Let us fit you out.

In Furnishings

For men and boys we carry a full line—complete and up-to-date in every respect. Our goods and prices cannot be equaled by any other store in Southeast Missouri. We invite inspection.

We want your Produce, Hides, etc. Get our prices.

In conclusion will say we do not believe in advertising goods below cost to entice people into our store and then over-charge them on goods they know nothing about. By our honest and fair dealings we will live in the memory of our citizens long after the other fellows are forgotten. We thank you for past favors and solicit a continuance of the same.

Scott County Bargain Store, ORAN. DIRNBERGER & CHITTY, Proprietors. ORAN.

should decrease in exactly the same proportion as our assessable wealth increases. Is there any reason why the cost of government this year should be any more than last year? Or, is there any reason to believe that the cost of government next year will be any more than this? If not, then why this continuously increasing drain on the taxpayers? Say, Mr. Taxpayer, the next fellow who undertakes to tell you about Missouri having the "lowest tax rate," you just swat him across the proboscis with a handspike.

THE SOUTHEAST. Doings and Happenings in Neighboring Counties.

Cape Progress: The horrible killing of G. W. Snider by his fine-blooded stallion Sunday morning, near Oak Ridge, was sad news to his many friends all over the county. Mr. Snider was a noted raiser of improved stock, and carried off numerous premiums at neighboring fairs. He was not found for several hours, and his body was horribly mangled by the infuriated animal.

Dexter Messenger: The defeat of Phil. Halter for county clerk in Scott county saves to the profession in this section a good editor—a man who courted defeat in his long years of opposition to the landlord system in Scott county. The Kicker will kick just as hard as ever, and hit some of the sore spots in county politics with the same unerring aim that has characterized it heretofore.

Cape Progress: The Globe-Democrat published an article a few days ago in its railroad column that the Houck roads had been secured by the Memphis and Gulf railroad company. * * The Progress man went to headquarters to ascertain the facts in the case, and Manager L. B. Houck informed him that there was not a particle of truth in the reported deal.

Down in Dunklin county last week fire destroyed one of the Buckeye Lumber Co.'s big saw mills, together with 8,000,000 feet of lumber, three car loads of hay and several dwelling houses. Loss, \$75,000.

John A. Mott, who has been circuit clerk of New Madrid county since 1863, was defeated in last Saturday's primary by J. W. Jackson, ex-member of the legislature.

St. Genevieve county by an unanimous vote, last Saturday, instructed Judge Fox for supreme judge. Forty-two divorce suits are on the docket for the June term of Butler county circuit court.

John Fort has withdrawn from the contest for the Democratic nomination for supreme judge.

Southeast Missouri ought to have more papers like the Kicker.

Circuit Court Proceedings.

Continued from last week.

Nancy McElmurray et al. vs. Connel McElmurray, partition: sheriff files report of sale.

Aug. Bohndorf vs. I. M. Ry, damages: dismissed.

City of Sikeston vs. Asa Crain, Lee Dalton and Bob Brown, gaming: dismissed at cost of defendants.

J. A. Johnson vs. Alex. Armstrong and Jacob Myers, replevin: dismissed for want of prosecution.

Thos. Brassfield, Will Murphy, Wm. Sewell, Jake Harris and Andy Hall vs. H. M. & A. Ry., continued.

Lee Barnes vs. H. M. & A. Ry., dismissed.

J. R. Crow vs. H. M. & A. Ry., continued by consent.

L. F. Klotzmann vs. W. M. Dirnberger, judgment for plaintiff for \$500.68 and \$1,410.80, with 8 per cent interest.

Cora A. Ellis vs. School District 3, preceptory writ ordered.

Divorces granted in the following cases: Bertie Tarwater vs. Perry Tarwater; Wm. Browning vs. Bertie Browning; W. W. Hasberry vs. Olie Hasberry; A. J. Sinaud vs. L. A. Sinaud; Wm. Keelin vs. Estelle Keelin; Sarah Bradley vs. J. H. Bradley; Ada B. Underhill vs. James Underhill; B. F. Moore vs. J. L. Moore; Sallie Holcomb vs. Moses Holcomb; Roney Halter vs. Adelia Halter, and Luella Wright vs. Lafayette Wright.

A. Metz, jr. vs. Thomas F. Hinkle, suit to set aside sale: dismissed by plaintiff.

John G. Metz vs. Sophia Metz, executor estate of Geo. Metz, deceased, dismissed.

S. Albert Greer Co., vs. Grossman & Banks, attachment sustained.

State vs. St. L. I. M. & S. Ry., damages: judgment by consent for the defendant on erection of a depot at Morley within ninety days from this date.

Walter Upshaw and Joe Dillingham vs. Gray's Point Terminal Ry. Co., damages: continued.

Mollie and Rice A. Pierce vs. John J. Hunter and Abe Bird, partition: report of sale by sheriff filed and approved.

Peter Petz vs. I. M. Ry., damages: continued.

W. R. Batts vs. Zeb and Jonathan Drumm, replevin: continued.

Phil. A. Huffer vs. W. G. Kapp, replevin: continued.

Court adjourned until May 12, at which time an adjourned term of two days will be held.

From Oran.

Miss McMinn, a returned missionary from China, lectured at the Baptist church Wednesday evening.

The storm of Friday did a great amount of damage. Flues, sheds and trees were blown down.

Miss Lena and Minnie Marshall and Edie Sikos were guests of Mrs. Stubblefield on day this week.

The mission Sunday school at the Bryans school house is flourishing. The enrollment now is 100.

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Hinkle, accompanied by Miss Verdie Tuck, went to St. Louis Sunday.

Miss Haw of Farmington is visiting her sister, Mrs. Wescott.

Mrs. Jane Wylie and daughter, of Bleda, visited here Sunday.

Judge Burroughs of Cape Girardeau, was here this week.

The Kicker kicks; read it.

From New Hamburg.

Heavy wind and rainstorms have been quite frequent here during the past week. On Friday night the large train windows over the depot of Schenck & Co.'s were blown inside and a large show case was demolished by the falling glass.

Andrew Hahn and Miss Josephine Scherer were married during nuptial high mass Tuesday morning. The attendants were Lorenz Hahn and Miss Ida Scherer; Chas. Halber and Miss Rosa Essner.

Rev. Hussman, of Charleston, and Rev. Helmke, of Oran, were the guests of Father Moening Tuesday.

Mrs. L. J. Schulte, of Fredericktown, who visited her sister, Miss Katie, returned home Saturday.

Mrs. Mike Goetze has been quite sick for the past week. Her speedy recovery is hoped for.

At the school examination last Friday the children acquitted themselves well.

Misses Alvina Dirnberger and Clara Bollinger visited Oran friends this week.

New Hamburg is to have a railroad—as soon as fence rails get ripe. John Linhart has an up-to-date photograph that makes moosek.

A fine girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Leo Hauring Saturday.

Rumor has it that our town is to have a butcher shop soon.

What's the Use to Monkey?

The newly elected Democratic Central Committee for Scott county will meet in Benton for the purpose of organization on the 10th inst. After organization it may be well for the committee to follow the precedent established by the Penicost county committee in the senatorial contest two years ago and allow the chairman to select the delegates to attend the state and judicial conventions to be held this year.

What is the use of going through the farce of holding conventions? Anybody that will ride on a Phelps pass will make an acceptable delegate—and any practical politician will do this!

To nominate a set of men that will not accept free passes would mean that there will be no one at the convention to answer the roll call when Scott county is called.

Let the chairman appoint the delegates. What's the use to monkey?

Late News Notes.

Charles Kratz, under indictment in St. Louis for bribery, and who recently jumped a \$20,000 bond, is reported captured by the police of Guadalajara, Mexico. St. Louis detectives have gone after him.

Sol Smith Russell, the greatest of all comedians, died at Washington, D. C. Monday.

Nine persons were killed and forty injured near Dallas, Texas, Monday by a tornado.

Notice To Democratic County Central Committee.

The Scott county Democratic central committee will meet at the court house in Benton on Saturday, May 10, at 1 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of organizing and transacting such business as may come before it.

T. F. FRASER, Chairman. P. H. ROYCE, Secretary.

From Manning.

It has been decided by the congregation that we will have an English sermon at the Rock church at least once in six weeks. The first of these sermons will be delivered next Sunday afternoon, May 4, at 2:30. All English speaking people are invited to attend.

The work for the big bridge is progressing nicely. It is quite a sight to watch the workmen. The contractor, Judge W. M. Bates, together with his assistants and their families, are occupying the Froemdsdorf place, and are a lot of friendly and accommodating people.

FOR SALE—Late seed Potatoes. Good variety in lots of three bushels or more at \$1.00 per bushel until sold out. Ed Johnson will attend to customers in my absence.

Hester E. Farnham, Cambridge, Mo.

From Keosau.

Mrs. William Schenck died Monday night and was buried in the Catholic cemetery Wednesday morning.

Albert Schenck, of Gray's Shoals, was here Monday with friends, and Nick Manz, of Rockview, was here Sunday.

Mike Endreke, who has been sick for the past six months, is able to be out again.

Leo Hahn visited at Benton and New Hamburg the past week.

A. L. Klein was at Cape Girardeau on business this week.

John Essner, of Benton, was here Sunday and Monday.

John Seger is the sick list this week.

From Dillingham Mill.

Our mill is running full blast. Mr. Dillingham contemplates taking out one of the boilers and making some improvements this week.

We have a thriving Sunday school at the Bryant school house. Drew Greer and John Mosley are regular attendants.

Since smallpox and mumps have disappeared from our midst, the health of this neighborhood is good.

Miss Lula Hoe was a visitor at Milltown the first of the week, the guest of Miss Joy Martin.

Benj. Mausby has contracted to stack all the lumber cut by this mill.

Our people enjoy reading the Kicker—next to eating.

Commerce Postoffice Middle.

Postoffice inspectors have discovered a shortage of something over five hundred dollars in the Commerce postoffice. During the investigation Arthur Pell, the deputy postmaster disappeared. He was last week arrested at Cardwell, Mo., and, according to a press dispatch, admitted his responsibility for part of the shortage, but said that Postmaster R. W. Finley was aware of the irregularities in the Commerce postoffice.

Pell was brought back and gave bond. Sunday Postmaster Finley, C. M. Wylie and E. C. Moore left for St. Louis, where they were subpoenaed to testify before the United States grand jury.

In conversation with the editor Postmaster Finley said that he had placed unlimited confidence in his deputy, and that he received no part of the money that is missing.

What the outcome will be cannot be told.

ST. LOUIS & GULF RAILWAY

Has Absorbed All The Houck System.—The Work Being Pushed.

The St. Louis and Gulf railway system has absorbed the Houck system in Southeast Missouri and the work of connecting St. Louis and Memphis by this route is rapidly progressing. All along the river between Cape Girardeau and St. Louis the work is going on. It is divided into divisions, or sections, of two or three miles each and the road bed is being prepared with all possible haste.

The Houck roads absorbed by the Gulf are the Cape Girardeau, Bloomfield & Southern Railway Co., the Kennett & Osceola Railway Co., the Pennsott Southern Railway Co., the St. Louis, Kennett & Southern Railway Co., the Houck's Missouri & Arkansas Railroad Co., the Jackson branch, St. Louis, Kennett & Southern Railroad, the St. Francis Valley Railroad and the Monday & Monday's Railroad Co. The assets of the stockholders of the companies was filed with the secretary of state Tuesday.

The St. Louis and Gulf system seems to be nothing more than a consolidation of the various Houck roads, with extensions to St. Louis and Memphis. This has been Mr. Houck's dream for years, and at last it is to be a reality. The new system is capitalized at five million dollars, of which Mr. Houck holds \$1,000,000 of the stock. Mr. Houck is also president of the new arrangement. In fact, he is the whole show.

In the Manning neighborhood, in Scott county, things are taking on a lively appearance. Hundreds of men and teams are at work grading for the approach to the big bridge, and quite a village of tents has sprung up. The inhabitants are quite all negroes.

While the bridge company had bought quite a great deal of land on the Missouri side near the bridge approach, yet it seems they failed to get hold of some 300 acres belonging to the Parham Stone heirs. This land is indispensable for terminal purposes. Houck & Co. discovered this, bought the land for \$15,000, and now the bridge company will have to expend Mr. Houck about a place to let the west end of their bridge rest.

And now there is fun ahead. It was reported at Gray's Point Wednesday that the engineers had been ordered to drop their large dows to near Commerce and take soundings there, but the Kicker does not know whether or not this was intended as a bluff at Mr. Houck in order to make him "let go" or whether it was just talk.

A Cape Girardeau paper says that citizens of the Cape will build a road from that city to the Missouri end of the big bridge, and that letters of incorporation have been issued. The paper also says "the company has acquired all the land from south and west of the Missouri end of the proposed bridge and will therefore have complete control of the approach to the bridge."

ROUND-ABOUT.

D. H. Harper and Olie Leckey, of Commerce, were in Benton Wednesday. Mr. Harper is making preparations to actively engage in the real estate business and will buy and sell improved and unimproved lands on commission. He is a reliable man and persons entrusting business to him need have no fear of unsatisfactory results.

FOR SALE—A good farm of 192 acres—160 acres in cultivation, good 2-story frame dwelling, granary, barn, plenty of good water and all modern conveniences. Within 10 minutes' drive of either Oran, New Hamburg or Benton. For further information apply at the Kicker office.

T. P. Stone has torn away part of his blacksmith shop facing the street and is rebuilding on the alley. The change adds much to the beauty and safety of his residence.

M. Arnold left this week for Hot Springs to join Mrs. Arnold, who is sojourning there because of poor health. They will return home about June 1.

FOR SALE—387 acres; 140 acres in cultivation at Batts' school house, 90 acres in cultivation on Little River. One-third cash; balance on long time. W. R. Batts.

Dr. T. F. Fraser, of Commerce, has been appointed by Gov. Boake, on the Board of Managers for the Insane Asylum No. 1, located at Farmington.

George Mier, of Bleda, was here Wednesday, and reports that the farmers of his locality have had sufficient rain for the present.

J. H. Crowder, L. B. and Gibney Houck, of Cape Girardeau, have purchased the Stone farm at Manning. Consideration, \$15,000.

Station Agent Cleaver has removed his family from Morehouse to Benton. They are occupying the Adams property.

Andros Elos, Keosau, Mo., is the agent for Osborne machines and repairs. All kinds of repairs kept on hand.

Mrs. N. A. Settle and C. J. Gabel, of Fredericktown, are guests of Mrs. Settle's daughter, Mrs. R. G. Allen.

Owing to the heavy colored population near the river Keosau township may be counted as safely Republican.

Sheriff Henderson took Bob Pearson and Riley Bevels to the penitentiary Thursday.

Mrs. Dan L. Graves, of Fredericktown, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Reeder this week.

The regular May term of county court convenes next Monday.

Alex Kjer, the Grayboro merchant, was in Benton Monday.

The editor spent the first of the week in St. Louis.